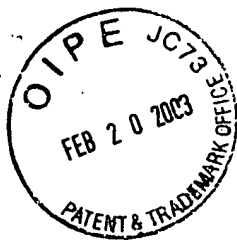


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US Patent and Trademark Office
Attn: Alex P. Rada
Crystal Plaza #2, Suite 1A031
2011 S. Clark Place
Arlington, Virginia 22202

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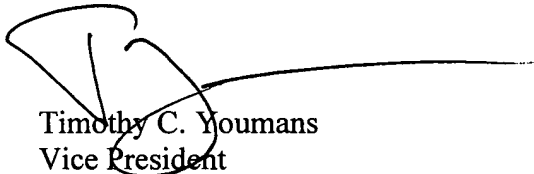
Re: Amended Application No. 09/977,938

Dear Inspector Rada:

Enclosed herewith, please find the Amended Patent Application No. 09/977,938, submitted on behalf of John Marshall Armstrong and John Garrett Armstrong, per our earlier conversations.

If any additional information is needed, please feel free to call. For now, I remain,

Sincerely yours,


Timothy C. Youmans
Vice President